known range and study its biology for conservation purposes. Since wetland ecosystems are getting depleted, it is necessary to identify areas of its distribution.

Specimens examined : INDIA : Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore Dt., Devarakerai, 5200 ft. 13 Feb. 1907, *C. E. C. Fischer* 1419 (CAL); Maharashtra, Poona Dt., Kochala cha talao, on Chakan-Alandi Road, 16 Aug. 1966, *Janardhanan* 68579 (BSI) : *ibid* 8 Oct. 1966, *Janardhanan* 92784 (BSI) ; Karnataka, Belgaum, Oct. *Ritchie* 1184 (TYPE, Photo-CAL).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors wish to thank their research guide, Dr. M. P. Nayar, former Director, Botanical Survey of India, for going through this manuscript and giving his valuable suggestions.

THOMAS MATHEW
AND
M. AHMEDULLAH
Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

REFERENCES

JANARDHANAN, K. P. Rediscovery of *Rotala ritchiei* (C. B. Clarke) Koehne (Lythraceae) after one hundred years. *Bull. Bot. Surv. India* 21 (1-4) : 230. 1979.

—— In : NAYAR, M. P. & A. R. K. SASTRY. (Ed). *Red Data Book of Indian Plants* 1 ; 190-191. 1987.

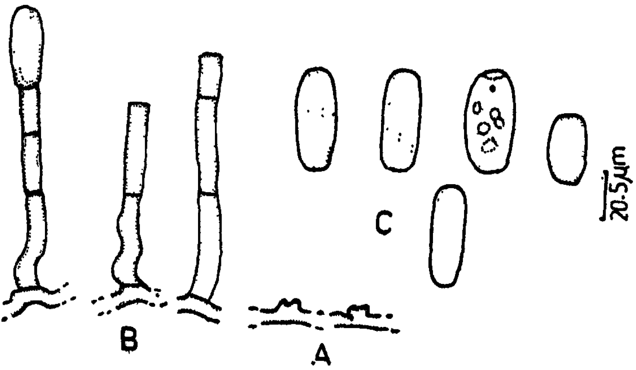
A NEW *OIDIUM* SPECIES FROM COIMBATORE, INDIA

Sesbania grandiflora (L.) Poir. of Fabaceae is extensively cultivated in the backyards of Coimbatore for its use as a green vegetable. For the past two years, a particular powdery mildew fungus was noticed on these plants. To study the fungus in detail, these plants were planted on December 15, 1987 and were kept under continuous observations. The infection started appearing only after the plants attained the age of one month. The severity of infection was during the month of February, 1988. The infection was mostly restricted to the upper surface of the lower leaves with less infection on the young leaves. Severely infected leaves turned yellow and resulted in defoliation. Such plants were easily noticed even from a distance with yellow-coloured lower leaves covered with a mass of white patches. However, by the end of March, 1988 the plants were almost free from the disease. The disappearance of the disease may be due to the decrease of humidity in the air. Throughout the observations, the fungus persisted in its anamorph stage only. This disease has been reported on the same host from Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam but the fungus was indicated as *Oidium* sp. with a specific name. Since the fungus persists only in its anamorph stage, it is necessary to propose a name. Hence the fungus is described here as a new species.

Oidium fabacearum Hosagoudar, *sp. nov.*

Plagulae infectionis foliicolae, epiphyllae, albae, densae, ad 4 mm diam., confluentis. Hyphae mycelii effusae, albae, septatae, 3-5 μm latae. Appressoria moderatim lobata. Conidophora erecta, cellulis (1-) 2(-3) sequentibus, 25-50 × 5-9.5 μ m ; fundus pedis rectus, plerumque curvatus vel anfractus. Conidia solitaria, ellipsoideo-ovoidea vel doliiformio-cylindracea, 25-45 × 12-19 μ m.

Infection spots foliicolous, epiphyllous, white, dense, up to 4 mm in diameter, confluent. Mycelium effuse, white, septate, 3-5 μm broad. Appressoria moderately lobed. Conidiophores erect, followed by (1-) 2(-3) short cells, 25-50 × 5-9.5 μ m ; basal portion of the foot cells straight, mostly curved to flexuous. Conidia solitary, ellipsoid-ovoid to doliiform-cylindrical, 25-45 × 12-19 μ m.



Oidium fabacearum sp. nov.

Figs. A-C : A. Appressoria. B. Conidiophores. C. Conidia.

Holotype : On leaves of *Sesbania grandiflora* (L.) Poir. (Fabaceae), Pudur, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, Feb. 15, 1988, *V. B. Hosagoudar* HAL, Germany. *Isotype* deposited in the Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore under MH 82700.

Braun (1987) reported *Erysiphe communis* and *E. pisi* on the host genus *Sesbania.* However, the distinctly curved to flexuous basal portion of the foot cells of the conidiophores distinguishes the present species from the anamorph stages of the above said species and hence it warrants to place it under a new species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Dr. U. Braun, Germany for his valuable suggestions and to Dr. N. P. Balakrishnan, Deputy Director, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore for encouragements.

V. B. Hosagoudar

Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore

REFERENCES

Braun, U. A Monograph of the Erysiphales (Powdery Mildews). *Nova Hedwigia* Beih. 89 : 1-700. 1987.

A NEW VARIETY OF *CHIONANTHUS RAMIFLORUS* ROXB. (OLEACEAE) FROM SOUTH INDIA

A new variety *Chionanthus ramiflorus* Roxb. var. *peninsularis* has been described from South India.

Chionanthus ramiflorus Roxb. var. **peninsularis** Ravikumar et Lakshmanan var. nov. *Chionanthus ramiflorus* Roxb. var. *ramiflorus* affinis, sed fructibus ellipsoideis, obliquis, ad apicem acutis ad breviter acuminatis, 3-3.5 × 1.4-1.7 cm, laevigatis, brunneo-atris differt. Typus : India, *Lakshmanan* 87782 (holotypus CAL : isotypi K, MH ; Paratypi : *Shetty* 27322, *Vajravelu* 77892, *Lakshmanan* 91042, *Lakshmanan* 91082 (MH).

Trees, up to 15 m tall ; bark smooth, greyish with lenticels ; branches terete or subangular. Leaves elliptic or elliptic-lanceate, cuneate at base, acute or shortly acuminate at apex, 2.5-13 × 1.2-6 cm, entire to undulate along margins, coriaceous, glabrous, light green above, pale green beneath ; lateral veins 8-12 pairs. Petioles 1-3.5 cm long, glabrous. Flowers in lax, axillary, cymose panicles, up to 8 cm long, 3-5 in each cyme, glabrous, pale yellow ; bracts minute, subulate, glabrous, caducous in infrutescences ; pedicels terete, *ca* 2 mm long, *ca* 0 25 mm thick, glabrous. Calyx-tube *ca* 2 mm long, sepals 4, trianiular, acute at apex, each *ca* 1 mm long, glabrous. Petals 4, valvate, oblong-elliptic, acute at apex, *ca* 4 × 1 mm, margins hyaline, incurved, connate in